



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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## CORRECTED NEWS RELEASE

The original release issued earlier today alleged that Scales was previously indicted in Shawnee County, Kansas, for a felony, murder. The release should have alleged that Scales was previously indicted in Shawnee County, Kansas, for a felony, attempted murder.

### TWO TOPEKA MEN CHARGED WITH DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Torrence L. Peppers**, 21, Topeka, Kansas, and **Deneco Scales**, 19, Topeka, Kansas, both currently in custody, were each charged on April 14, 2004, in U.S. District Court in Topeka, Kansas. No court dates have yet been set.

Peppers was charged with two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm; one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine; one count of using and carrying a pistol during a drug trafficking crime; and one count of using and carrying a shotgun during a drug trafficking crime, all on April 13, 2004.

Scales was charged with one count of possessing a firearm after being indicted for a felony, **attempted murder**, in Shawnee County, Kansas; one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine; and one count of using and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, all on April 13, 2004.

Melgren said that affidavits filed with the Court allege that on April 13, 2004, Topeka Police Department officers were called to the intersection of Gage and 29<sup>th</sup>, Topeka, Kansas, where witnesses saw two men together and observed one of the men fire a handgun at a passing automobile. The affidavits allege that during the investigation, officers stopped a vehicle leaving a nearby residence in which Peppers and Scales were riding. The affidavits alleges that officers searched the vehicle and found two handguns, a sawed off shotgun, and crack cocaine packaged in individual baggies. Peppers and Scales were arrested. The

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affidavits further allege that Peppers was previously convicted of a felony, possession of opiate, in Shawnee County, Kansas, and that Scales was previously indicted with a felony, attempted murder, a pending case in Shawnee County, Kansas.

If convicted, Peppers faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, on each count of being a felon in possession of a firearm; a maximum of twenty years for possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine; and a minimum of five years on each count of using and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

If convicted, Scales faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, for possessing a firearm after having been indicted for a felony; a maximum of twenty years for possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine; and a minimum of five years for using and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

The case was investigated by the Topeka Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.